



GRADUATE!

The GRADUATE program is helping to unlock a brighter future for adult residents without a high school diploma by offering a free path to a General Education Development (GED) certificate.

In July, 34 residents in the first GRADUATE group were awarded GED certificates, and the program is still open for those who would like to sign up. The program is free to residents and includes enrollment, books and other course materials, exam fees, tutoring and mentoring. And if the free cost of the program isn't enough incentive to enroll, those who complete their GED will also get \$250 worth of gift certificates to participating Manassas restaurants and retailers.

A first of its kind program, GRADUATE was developed by the Manassas Economic Development Department in partnership with SkillSource Group, Inc., a nonprofit that oversees workforce training. It grew out of the Manassas 2025: Five Year Strategic Plan, which identified a need to increase the percentage of working-age adults who have a high school equivalency.

Manassas residents ranked the quality of education as one of their top

priorities in the 2020 Citizen Satisfaction Survey, and businesses have long understood the importance of a well-trained workforce.

"Education is one of the keys to success and future earning potential, and we want all Manassas residents to have the full opportunity to participate in our thriving local economy," added Manassas Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger.

The tagline for the program, "Do it For You. Do it For Them," is designed to appeal to both younger and older people who have many different reasons for wanting to enroll in GRADUATE.

"There are many reasons people don't graduate, but we want to ensure our residents continue to have that opportunity," said Patrick Small, Director of Economic Development for the City of Manassas.

The program was made possible through a unique combination of funding from the City of Manassas, SkillSource, state and federal sources. Visit www.vcwnorthern.com/graduate for more information or to enroll in the GRADUATE program.

Maybe the timing wasn't right, life interfered, or you took a detour. No matter the reason, now is the time to finish high school by getting your GED. The City of Manassas is offering GED Preparation that includes online instruction, course materials, and the cost of the test—all for FREE. Plus, every graduate receives \$250 in gift certificates from participating Manassas restaurants and retailers as congratulations from the City. If you want the key to a better future or to fulfill a dream from the past, visit vcwnorthern.com/graduate and get started NOW!

Graduate
Do it for you. Do it for them.



Secretary of Education Atif Qarnie addressed the crowd and helped to hand out diplomas with Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger and Senator Jeremy McPike.

A Moment with the Mayor



Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

This month we say WELCOME to fall...can you believe it? It seems we just started summer and we are expecting leaves to begin falling soon. Fall is my absolute favorite season. I love fall festivals, the crisp, fresh air and the sweaters that come with... and who doesn't love a good pumpkin spice flavored drink? I want to take time to wish all of those who are heading

off to college well and all the best in your studies, work hard and make your families and me "Manassas proud!"

I know we are all concerned about the COVID-19 virus and the Delta variant that is seeming to increase, but please be mindful to continue to wash your hands, wear your mask when indoors or with large crowds, stay safely separated and most importantly GET VACCINATED. We have resources available that will provide you with information on where clinics are being held in the area. I have so enjoyed being out and about and being able to see your smiling faces and hug all of you. I want to be able to continue to do that, but we are not going to be able to do that if we don't get better about handling this new variant. So, please encourage your friends and family members who have not been vaccinated to please do so if they are eligible. It will protect us all.

Before I go, a reminder that September is also Addiction Recovery Awareness month. Having just lost

a very close relative to addiction, I can't tell you how important it is for us to help those who are experiencing addiction and/or a mental health crisis. If you know someone who needs help, please reach out on their behalf and get them the help they need. I know that our Manassas is better than any addiction and we can step up and help one another. Please, if you see something, say something. I am counting on all of you to make sure our beautiful city remains the loving and inclusive place where we all have what we need to be successful. Special shout out to Arm-In-Arm and Kelvin Manurs who is working with me on getting help to those who need it most! Stay tuned for a special event we are planning soon!

Well, time to get going...remember, be kind to one another and leave people better off than when you found them. Kindness is FREE but pays HUGE dividends! See you next month.

Trash & Recycling Note

Curbside Composting is Growing!

The City of Manassas has been working with Compost Crew to develop curbside composting for our residents. Since the start of the pilot program in March, City residents have diverted more than 5,000 pounds of recyclable organic material from the landfill! That's excellent news!


We're still making our way through the many neighborhoods in Manassas to help build a viable route for the service – but you don't have to sign up. Visit www.manassasva.gov/trash and visit the composting page for more information.

Shredding Success

The City of Manassas turned out for a spectacular Summer Shred in August. 467 cars went through the Manassas Transfer Station and recycled over 7.5 tons of paper in just 4 hours! This is a record breaker! Our next shredding

event will be RecycleFest on Saturday, Nov. 6, from 8am – 12pm at the Manassas Transfer Station.

Visit www.manassasva.gov/leafmap for information about your leaf/recycling and trash collection



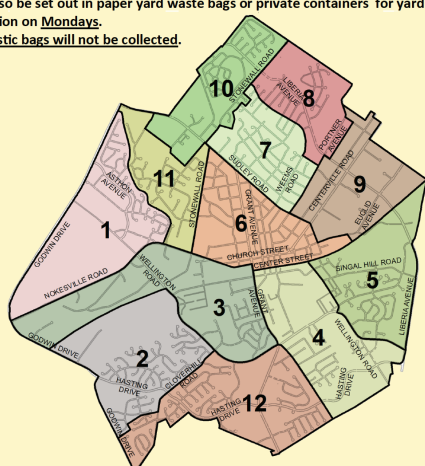
FALL LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE 2021 - 2022

Tips for leaf collection:

1. Make sure you follow the collection schedule for your area. Leaves will only be collected one time during each scheduled collection period. If you have missed your collection, please wait until the next time your street is scheduled.
2. Rake the leaves to the edge of the street or sidewalk the day before the collection period. Do not block traffic lanes or sidewalk. Leaves that are out of reach or on private property will not be collected.
3. Do not rake leaves into or near the storm drains.
4. Do not park your car or allow children to play in the leaves once they are ready for collection.
5. Leaves can also be set out in paper yard waste bags or private containers for yard waste collection on Mondays.
6. Leaves in plastic bags will not be collected.

Section 1	Section 5	Section 9
Oct 25 - Oct 29	Oct 25 - Oct 29	Oct 18 - Oct 22
Nov 15 - Nov 19	Nov 15 - Nov 19	Nov 8 - Nov 12
Dec 13 - Dec 17	Dec 13 - Dec 17	Dec 6 - Dec 10
Jan 10 - Jan 14	Jan 10 - Jan 14	Jan 3 - Jan 7
Section 2	Section 6	Section 10
Oct 25 - Oct 29	Oct 25 - Oct 29	Oct 12 - Oct 15
Nov 15 - Nov 19	Nov 15 - Nov 19	Nov 1 - Nov 5
Dec 13 - Dec 17	Dec 13 - Dec 17	Nov 29 - Dec 3
Jan 10 - Jan 14	Jan 10 - Jan 14	Dec 20 - Dec 23
Section 3	Section 7	Section 11
Oct 18 - Oct 22	Oct 12 - Oct 15	Oct 18 - Oct 22
Nov 8 - Nov 12	Nov 1 - Nov 5	Nov 8 - Nov 12
Dec 6 - Dec 10	Nov 29 - Dec 3	Dec 6 - Dec 10
Jan 3 - Jan 7	Dec 20 - Dec 23	Jan 3 - Jan 7
Section 4	Section 8	Section 12
Oct 12 - Oct 15	Oct 12 - Oct 15	Oct 18 - Oct 22
Nov 1 - Nov 5	Nov 1 - Nov 5	Nov 8 - Nov 12
Nov 29 - Dec 3	Nov 29 - Dec 3	Dec 6 - Dec 10
Dec 20 - Dec 23	Dec 20 - Dec 23	Jan 3 - Jan 7

Notes:
Please be advised that leaves are collected on City streets only.
Leaves on private streets or lanes will not be collected.



A Message from the Deputy City Manager



**Deputy City Manager
Bryan Foster**

Have you recovered yet from Olympic Fever? The Summer Olympics in Tokyo concluded last month and the United States led the world in most medals earned. This is the pinnacle of achievement for our athletes and recognition for the training, commitment, and drive to excel at their craft. Whether it was swimming, gymnastics, track and field, basketball or volleyball, it was exciting to watch all of the athletes excel, sometimes setting world or Olympic records in the process. One athlete in particular my wife and I followed during the Olympics was 17-year-old swimmer Lydia Jacoby. Lydia is from Seward, Alaska – a small town of no more than 3,000 people. She's a student at Seward High School and competes on the local swim team. We had never heard of Lydia until less than a month before the Olympics started.

We were fortunate to take a vacation to Alaska and spent a few days in and around Seward. Everywhere we went we saw signs that said, "Go Lydia Go!" along with the logo of the Olympic rings. She was the talk of the town and rightfully so. No swimmer from Alaska had ever made the Olympic team. In so many respects, she was a regular kid in a small town, but one who just happened to have a phenomenal talent. To me, this is such a great example of community where folks support one another and band together. Lydia

won the gold medal in the 100-meter breaststroke in a huge upset over the current world record holder.

So why all this talk about the Olympics? The City of Manassas is fortunate to have an outstanding staff that excel in their respective fields, and through the support of the Mayor, City Council, the community and great teamwork, the City has earned its own "Olympic hardware" in a variety of ways.

- The Water Treatment Plant was again recognized by the Virginia Department of Health with the Silver Award for the quality of our drinking water, treatment process, and adherence to regulatory requirements.
- The City's 2020 Comprehensive Plan was named the Outstanding Plan of the Year by the Virginia chapter of the American Planning Association. This is the highest award in the state and recognizes the efforts of our Planning Department, Planning Commission, and citizens to collaborate and create a meaningful plan for future development.
- The City's Planning Department was also recognized with the Old Dominion Innovative Approaches Award that honors the City's Community Conversations engagement initiative that was essential in guiding the 2040 Plan, and recognizes pioneering planning efforts including innovative planning processes, plans, programs, initiatives or site developments that will have real results.
- The Police Department is nationally-accredited as a "Gold Standard with Excellence Agency" through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). We are recognized for setting the standard of excellence in law enforcement. We have maintained our national accreditation since 2000.
- For 16 consecutive years, the City has earned Distinguished Awards for both our annual budget document

and (37 years) for our annual comprehensive financial report from the Government Finance Officers Association. These awards recognize the continued excellent work of our Finance Team. This work, the adoption of strong financial policies by City Council, and good stewardship of the City's tax dollars has earned the City a "AAA" bond rating, the best rating a locality can receive. This directly translates into lower interest rates for debt the city issues, thereby saving us money on every project.

This is only a sample of the great work that our City employees do each and every day. Much like how Seward supported Lydia during her Olympic journey, Manassas does a great job of supporting the City team. A lot of the achievements and recognitions we have earned are the result of significant public engagement in addition to the work by our staff. However, it is not just the support of the work done by the City. Our citizens continue to do a great job of supporting our local businesses during the pandemic, turning out in droves for 4th of July fireworks and First Fridays, cheering our local youth sports teams, and assisting our local charities. This is why Manassas is such a great community and why we are able to continue a tradition of excellence and achievement. Go Manassas Go!

Bryan Foster

What's Going Where?

Find out about development meetings and hearings, and see the latest applications under review for rezonings and special use permits at:

manassasva.gov/comhearing

The City of Manassas Happenings

Find these events and more in the City of Manassas, Virginia. For more information go to www.visitmanassas.org.

Farmer's Market for the Season:

Thursday Farmer's Market at the Harris Pavilion and Saturday Farmer's Market on Prince William Street Commuter Lot - Hours for both are 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

History Virtual Talks

Wednesday **Spotlight on History Virtual Talks**, tune in each week at www.facebook.com/cityofmanassasleisure

Sept. 2 - Oct. 9 - To the Point

Metro Washington Chapter of the Colored Pencil Society of America at the ARTFactory

Sept. 4, 8 a.m. to noon – **Household Hazardous Waste, and Electronics Recycling Drop-off Day** at the Manassas Transfer Station

Sept. 4 at 12 p.m. – **10th Annual Bands, Brews, and Barbeque** at Historic Downtown Manassas

Sept. 4 at 6:30 p.m. – Summer Sounds Concert with **Wicked Olde** at the Harris Pavilion

Sept. 5 at 3 p.m. – **Manassas Symphony Concert** at the Harris Pavilion

Sept. 7 at 6:30 p.m. – **Acoustic Tuesday** featuring Timmie Metz at the Harris Pavilion

September 10 & 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Stonehouse Quilt Guild **Quilt Show** at the Manassas Baptist Church - 8370 Sudley Rd

Sept. 10 from 4-7 p.m. - **Dogapoolooza** at Stonewall Park Pool - the pool is going to our 4-legged friends - come enjoy

Sept. 11 at 10 & 11 a.m. – **Liberia House Tours**

Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. – **Yoga** in Liberia's Garden

Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – **Hispanic Heritage Festival** at the Harris Pavilion

Sept. 17 - Oct.29, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. - **In-person early Voting** at 9025 Center Street

Sept. 17 – **Manny the Penguin Marionette** at the Manassas City Library / pwcva.gov/library

Sept. 18 at 11 a.m. – **Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Parade** in Historic Downtown Manassas

Sept. 18 at 11 a.m. – **45th Edgar Rohr Memorial Car Meet** at Manassas Museum

Sept. 18 at 10:30 a.m. – **Spanish-English Story Time** at the Manassas City Library / pwcva.gov/library

Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. - **Town Hall Meeting** at Haydon Elementary School

Sept. 25 at 10 a.m. – **World Heritage Festival** at the Harris Pavilion

Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. – **Beatlegacy Concert** at the Harris Pavilion

Sept. 29 at 3 p.m. -- Stories of Preservation and Progress: **Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with Carlos Castro**, owner of Todos Grocery Stores

Oct. 1 from 6-9 p.m. - **First Friday** in Historic Downtown Manassas

Oct. 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **38th Annual Fall Jubilee**

Oct. 2 from 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous and eWaste dropoff** at the Manassas Transfer Station - 8305 Quarry Road

Oct. 9 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **Manassas Latino Festival** at the Harris Pavilion

Oct. 15 - 17 - Manassas Ballet presents **"Dracula"** at the Hylton Performing Arts

Oct. 16 & 17 - Pied Piper Theatre presents **Fiddler on the Roof Jr.** at Metz Middle School

Oct. 16 from 9:30 - 11 a.m. - **Walk to End Alzheimer's** at the Harris Pavilion

Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Saturday **Early In-person Voting**

Oct. 30 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Saturday **Early In-person Voting LAST DAY TO VOTE EARLY IN-PERSON**

Oct. 30 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **Old Town Manassas Holiday Crafts, Desserts & Sweets** on the Museum Lawn

Oct. 30 from 10 a.m. to noon - **Haunted Happenings** in Historic Downtown Manassas

Oct. 30 - Nov. 30 - Manassas Ballet Theatre streams **"Dracula"** performance

Nov. 2 - Election Day - for more information visit www.manassasva.gov/vote

Nov. 5 from 6-9 p.m. - **Gallery Walk** in Historic Downtown Manassas

Nov. 6 from 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous, eWaste and shredding** at the Manassas Transfer Station - 8305 Quarry Road

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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 www.youtube.com/user/manassascityva

To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email pprince@manassasva.gov